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Wednesday, June 12, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Immigration bill passes hurdles in US Senate

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Bolstered by support from President Barack Obama, a landmark immigration bill passed a pair of crucial test votes Tuesday in the US Senate, kicking off weeks of debate on the comprehensive reform.

After months of initial wrangling and more than 100 new amendments offered to the underlying legislation, the Senate -- in an act of broad bipartisanship -- voted 84-15 to move to debate passage of what would be the most important immigration reform in nearly 30 years.

"This overwhelming vote, a majority of both parties, starts this bill off on just the right foot," said Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer, one of the Gang of Eight senators -- four Democrats and four Republicans -- who crafted the measure, which now comes to 1,076 pages.

The top Democrat in the Senate, Harry Reid, has said he hopes to pass the bill by early July.

The legislation provides a 13-year pathway to citizen-

ship for the more than 11 million people living illegally in the United States, tightens border security, and aims to collect back taxes from undocumented workers.

It also would revise visa programs for high-tech employees and agriculture workers, require firms to use an e-verify program that prevents illegal hires and compel those receiving provisional legal status to learn English.

Obama made an outspoken pitch for the bill Tuesday, saying those opposed to it are insincere about fixing a badly broken system.

The president has gently pushed the bill from behind the scenes for months, fearing his open support would swell the ranks of conservatives who see the bill as offering amnesty to illegal immigrants and are determined to kill it.

But ahead of the crucial test votes, Obama waded into the fray, leveraging the political capital on the issue he won during last year's election campaign, particularly among Hispanic voters.

Aruba's meteorological agency collaborates with COCONet to monitor weather and seismic activity



It was announced on Monday afternoon, June 10 that the Departamento Meteorologico Aruba (DMA) is working with the Continuously Operating Caribbean Observational Network, COCONet, to more efficiently monitor extreme weather patterns and seismic activity in the Caribbean.

Resident Meteorologist Mark Oduber introduced visiting engineer Michael Fend of UNAVCO, <http://www.unavco.org/>, a non-profit university-governed consortium, which facilitates geoscience research and education by deploying geodesy.

Mr. Fend was on Aruba to install equipment as part of a five-year project from COCONet. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the USA. It is planned that 50 GPS systems with high precision measurements are to be installed in the Caribbean and Latin America. Together with other existing systems in this region a framework can be created for doing studies in the region. Mr. Fend report

the Aruba installation is around the half way point to completion.

The research on Aruba forms part of a large and extensive research study regarding to the movements of the Southern Caribbean Deformation Belt. Previous studies have indicated that unknown faults in the deformation belt can trigger moderate to strong earthquakes, which may have a direct impact on Aruba.

The equipment measures and collect data from active faults, where earthquakes may occur. The signal of this system can also be used to measure the humidity in the atmosphere. This information can be used for extreme rainfall events and for the formation or strengthening of tropical cyclones in the region. Moreover, this new GPS station is equipped with extra meteorological sensors, which is of great interest to Aruba in order to obtain better rainfall and wind spatial resolution.

This COCONet station will provide raw GPS data, GPS-PWV, surface meteorology measurements, time se-

ries of daily positions, as well as a station velocity field to support a broad range of geoscience investigations. Scientists will be able to study solid earth processes such as plate kinematics and dynamics as well as plate boundary interactions and deformation, with an emphasis on the earthquake cycle. Furthermore it will also serve atmospheric science objectives by providing more precise estimates of tropospheric water vapor and enabling better forecast of the dynamics of airborne moisture associated with the yearly Caribbean hurricane cycle.

Extensive diversity and complexity of tectonic regimes characterizes the perimeter of the Caribbean plate, involving no fewer than four major plates (North America, South America, Nazca, and Cocos). The southern Caribbean plate boundary with the South America plate strikes east-west across Trinidad and western Venezuela at a relative rate of approximately 20 mm/yr.

Continued on pg

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Aruba's meteorological agency collaborates with COCONet...

Continued from pg 1

Historically, Aruba has been affected by some earthquakes. These have caused some damage but were not of a destructive character. Experts indicate that Aruba is located in the southern Caribbean Deformed Belt and has the risk of moderate to large earthquakes from unidentified faults.

"We have wished to upgrade our technology for some time," explained Marck Oduber. "Being included in the COCONet project is an ideal, win/win situation all around."

"We always wish to involve the community where we place an installation," stated Mr. Fend. "This makes the system more efficient. We are pleased to have local technician Lysandro Arends

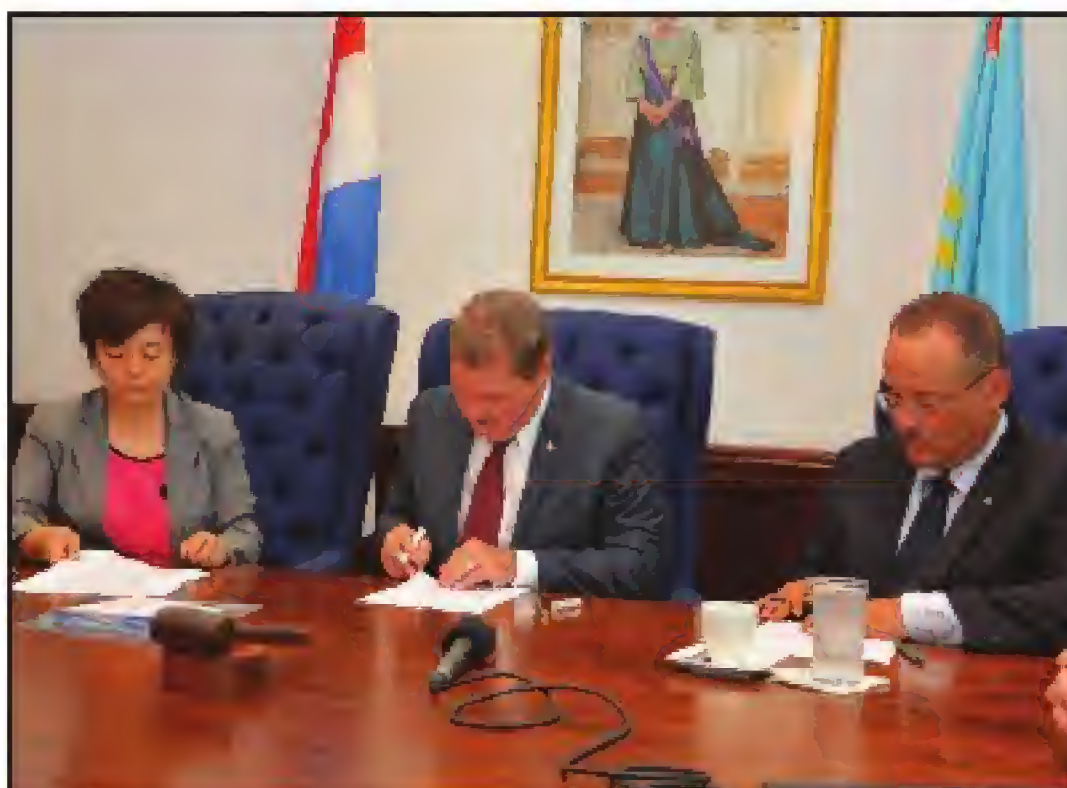
on site to maintain the equipment; he has proven very knowledgeable and efficient during the installation process." He also expressed great satisfaction with the site on the mount of the California Lighthouse, which offered ideal conditions for placing the equipment.

Though passersby are asked to respect and not tamper with the installation, a sign informing on the science and what the project hopes to accomplish has been placed, to help visitors better understand the significance of the project.

A full detailing of all the islands included in the project and its progress can be found on the COCONet website: <http://coconet.unavco.org/>

By Rosalie Klein

Government of Aruba signs MOU with BYD with a focus on "Aruba 2020"



and desires to be part of the process of the realization of Aruba's dream, said Li.

The Minister remarked that the government of Aruba considers it an honor to work with such a large and mature

company as a partner in realizing "Aruba 2020". Aruba's goal is to become 100% com-

bustible fossil and emission free with respect to the production of water and electricity.

Other partner organizations are Carbon War Room, the New American Foundation and TNO.

According to Minister de Meza, the signing of the MOU makes BYD a part of the green family of our island, and that we need this technology.

Stella Li concluded by saying that BYD has the support of the Chinese government and can provide for financing from the Chinese Bank for Aruban for projects to be developed here between the government and BYD.

The Minister took the opportunity to invite BYD to Aruba for the upcoming Green Aruba IV Conference to be held here in October/November which will be combined with the CREF meeting (Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum). Some 1000 delegates are expected for these meetings.

ATTENTION MOTORIST! Stadionweg closed partially for reconstruction



ORANJESTAD — The Department of Public Works — DOW — announces to the general public, especially motorists that the department will start with reconstruction work on the Stadionweg. Due to this the road will be closed partially, starting from Stadionweg # 3 up to Stadionweg # 37 (ex-John F. Kennedy school), thus the road east of the Compleho Deportivo Guillermo P. Trinidad. The road will be frozen and re-capped.

The road will be closed from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be barricades and traffic signs to advise all motorists. The reconstruction works will last 7 working days. DOW asks all motorists, businesses and other all others who use this road, to take good notice of this and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

Recently, the Minister of Finance, Mike de Meza, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese Company BYD. This company is known for their fabrication of automobiles, and is considered worldwide as one of the largest companies specialized in the storage of solar energy.

Stella Li, representative of BYD was in Aruba for the occasion and was accompanied by owner of Garage Cordia, Hans Schnog, who is the local representative for BYD automobiles on Aruba.

Li indicated that she is very impressed with Aruba's vision to establish the island as the green capital of the Caribbean. The BYD technology supports this vision

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"Professor Ryan Peterson delivers Keynote on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Caribbean"

St. Maarten – Professor Dr. Ryan Peterson, scientific professor and policy advisor on sustainable islands at the University of Aruba, will hold the keynote address at the first annual symposium of the Social Economic Council (SER) that is taking place on Wednesday.

Professor Peterson is a published scholar, well known for his expertise in economic innovation, specifically pertaining to small island states of the Caribbean. In his speech, he will connect the themes of innovation economics with the issue of corporate social responsibility in our society.

Corporate social responsibility or 'CSR' is currently a widely discussed topic in the Caribbean and globally. Pri-



ivate enterprises can show corporate social responsibility on different levels; by donating money to charities, by stressing compliance with rules and regulations, or by being proactively involved in education, social causes, care for the environment and other long-term social goals.

The keynote address will be followed by a panel discussion chaired by SER chairman René A. Richardson, and further comprised of professor Peterson, Harbour Group of Companies CEO Mark Mingo, General manager of Budget Marine, Robbie Ferron, and Voice of our Children president Shamaine Olivace.

In this way, representatives of the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, will engage each other and the audience in a discussion on the main theme of the day. The attendees will further explore the central theme of innovation through 'Corporate Social Responsibility', addressing the question of the best way for businesses to be involved in, and accept re-

sponsibility for, the social challenges of our country.

Corporate social responsibility, while as a concept primarily addressing the business sector, stresses the joint responsibility of business, government and citizens in tackling common causes like care for the environment, education, social conditions and all issues that contribute to the general

quality of life.

The SER symposium will take place Wednesday at the Westin Dawn Beach Spa & Resort from 8 am to 1 pm. Its title is "Innovate or deteriorate; Corporate Social Responsibility as the Way Forward for Sint Maarten".

Organization of the symposium is covered by Dutch development funds managed by USONA.

Modern Technology will determine the future of medicine

During the recently held PACO conference here, it was proven that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect our health directly. These are basic elements to help us achieve a better quality of life and

avoid different ailments.

The Minister of Public Health, Richard Visser, was pleased to learn of a young man, whom he knows personally. Dennis Ai 22, is an inventor and created a game of apps for smartphones that

children can use to teach them how to eat vegetables and fruits. The game contains much more information related to topics of nutrition and health. Jivehealth was chosen by USA First Lady Michelle Obama for the "Partnership Healthier America's" program as the most innovative idea to combat infantile obesity.

Yuri van Geest, one of the speakers at the conference, an entrepreneur of innovative components of apps, explained that modern technology is allowing us to see the future of medicine.

Continued on pg 5

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Attractive new stamps from Post Aruba N.V.



New Butterfly Stamps by Angiolina Henriquez

2013 brings another crop of colorful, collectable stamps from Post Aruba N.V., which showcase the talents of some of the island's finest artists. New this year is a twelve-stamp issue depicting butterflies by Angiolina Henriquez. There is also a commemorative first-day issue envelope and cancel stamp ensemble. Two envelopes can be purchased, each with six stamps.

These day-flying insect belong to the order Lepidoptera, meaning scaly wings, because their wings are covered with thousands of tiny overlapping scales. Butterflies can be recognized by their bright colors, and clubbed antennae, but also by the way they rest, with the wings held together over the back. There are 170,000 known species of Lepidoptera, but only 10% are butterflies, the rest are moths.

The new butterfly stamps of Aruba sell for 1.5 Aruban florins each, (90 cents U.S.) A full collection comes in two rows of five stamps. The individual insects on each stamp are from left to right

and top to bottom:

Morpho peleides / Common Morpho: The *Morpho peleides* (Nymphalidae) occurs in the Neotropical region, they are common in Central and South America as well as the islands of the West Indies. It feeds on the foliage of *Machaerium seemanii*, *Lonchocarpus*, and other plants of the pea family. If threatened it releases a strong smelling scent intended to deter predators.

Eryphanis polixena / Purple Mort Bleu: The *Eryphanis polixena* (Nymphalidae) comes from the Neotropical region (Central and South America and the West Indies). This butterfly can live up to six weeks and flies in the dark forests of Latin America. It is a fast flying butterfly. The caterpillars are cryptically colored and feed at night on Poaceae host plants (mainly bamboo leaves), of which the elon-

gated chrysalis mimics the appearance of a dried leaf.

Palla usheri / Ussher's Palla: The *Palla usheri* (Nymphalidae) occurs in the Afro-tropical region. The habitat consists of lowland

thocharis cardamines (Pieridae) is found across Europe, and eastwards into temperate Asia as far as Japan. It is named Orange tip because of the male's bright orange tips to his forewings. The males are a common sight in spring

camouflage when settled on flower heads such as Cow Parsley and Garlic Mustard. The male is able to hide his orange tips by tucking the forewings behind the hind wings at rest.

Pseudacraea boisduvali / Boisduval's false Acraea: The *Pseudacraea boisduvali* (Nymphalidae) has orange red and black colors which are typical of a distasteful species, and closely mimic the pattern of the poisonous *Acraea* butterflies. The caterpillar is very unusual in appearance. It has a spiny head and large, fleshy, spiny, projections along its dark brown body. It is difficult to distinguish the head from the tail. It is found the Afro-tropical region, in tropical rainforests, in clearings and near streams.

Danix danix / Large Green Banded Blue: The *Danix danix*, (Lycaenidae) is from the Indo-Australian region. The male and female adults differ. On top, the males are blue with a large white patch on each wing, and a black margin to each wing. The females are black with large white patches on each wing, and a metallic blue suffusion at the base of each wing.

Lower row (left to right)

Diaethria clymena / 88 butterfly: The *Diaethria clymena* (Nymphalidae) is one of several species with similar

wing markings. Its common name is 88 butterfly, and refers to the distinctive black and white 88 pattern displayed on the underside of the hind wing. It is from the Neotropical region (widespread in South America and common to Brazil).

Continued on pg 5



New Issue Ensemble

evergreen forests. They are characterized by having a rapid and powerful flight, stout bodies, falcate apices, and a habit of feeding at dung and carrion.

Anthocharis cardamines / Orange tip: The An-

flying along hedgerows and damp meadows in search of the more reclusive female which lacks the orange and is often mistaken for one of the other 'White' butterflies. The undersides are mottled green and white and create a superb

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Modern Technology will determine ...

Continued from pg 3



Gene therapy, robot and technology in medicine. There are already 700 applications on smartphones which are interesting and very relevant and accessible to everyone.

The apps can monitor the entire body as the connection of smartphones to the body has become a reality. These phones can alert the body of potential illnesses or diseases, provide advice to control cholesterol, hypertension, control vital signs, check your heart and provide a complete health profile. This way you can know which areas are vulnerable and what to do, and so much more.

We must take this new technology into account in the future, as it provides an idea as to which direction we must take in the world of medicine and public health. The best part of these apps is that they are not expensive and that they can be used on our own bodies. It is like having a 24 hour health coach with you. This they believe is going to change the world of medicine in the next 20 years, hence we must remain alert and not build buildings that are not in coordination with the technological advancement, according to the Minister of Public Health.

Attractive new stamps from Post Aruba N.V.

Continued from pg 4

Colias eurytheme / Alfalfa butterfly / Orange Sulphur: The *Colias eurytheme* (Pieridae) is found throughout North America from southern Canada to Mexico, but is absent from the central and southeastern USA. The Orange Sulphur's caterpillars feed of various species in the pea family (Fabaceae) and are usually only found feeding at night. Occasionally this species multiplies to high numbers, and can become a serious pest to Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) crops.

Junonia orithya / Blue pansy / Blue argus: The *Junonia orithya* (Nymphalidae) are common in Afro-tropical and Indo-Australian region. The adults occur in open areas, often sitting on bare ground. This species has a stiff flap and glide style of flight and maintains a territory, driving away other butterflies that enter it.

Graphium sarpedon / bluebottle / blue triangle: *Graphium sarpedon* is the most widespread and common of the Oriental species, found from India and Sri Lanka to China and Japan; and from Malaya to Borneo,

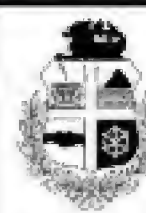
Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, Bali, New Guinea, eastern Australia, and the Solomon Islands. The wings are black above and brown below, with large turquoise patches in the middle of both fore and hind wings. When in rest, it makes a pad of silk to sit upon.

Danaus plexippus / Monarch butterfly: The *Danaus plexippus* (Nymphalidae) is perhaps the best known of all North American butterflies. Since the 19th century, it has been found in New Zealand, and in Australia since 1871, where it is called the wanderer. It is resident in the Canary Islands, the Azores, and Madeira, and is found as an occasional mi-

grant in Western Europe and a rare migrant in the United Kingdom. The monarch is famous for its southward migration and northward return in summer from Canada to Mexico and Baja California which spans the life of three to four generations of the butterfly. It feeds on milkweeds and related plants.

Scoptes alphaeus / Orange-banded Protea: The *Scoptes alphaeus* (Lycaenidae) comes from the Afro-tropical region (South Africa). The caterpillar is pale grey with bluish spots. It can be found feeding inside flower heads of sugar bushes.

By Rosalie Klein



Oil Products prices

Department of Economic Affairs,
Commerce and Industry



The Ministry of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs announces the retail prices for the following oil products as per June 12, 2013

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Gasoline unleaded-premium | 232,4 cent p/ltr. (+1.0 cent) |
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Audit finds no flaws in Venezuela vote: official

CARACAS (AFP) - An audit of Venezuela's presidential election results has found no flaws in the snap vote to replace the late Hugo Chavez, the head of the National Electoral Commission said Tuesday.

The opposition leader who lost the election by a tiny margin remained defiant and vowed not to give up, however.

The commission reviewed paper receipts of nearly 4.6 million votes, or 99.98 percent of those cast, and found "no discrepancy" with the official electronic tallies, said commission president Tibusay Lucena.

Nicolas Maduro was proclaimed the winner of the April 14 vote by a 1.5 percent margin hours after polls closed, but opposition candi-

date Henrique Capriles has refused to concede, saying the elections were stolen.

The commission's findings, however, were unlikely to put the bitter dispute to rest.

Capriles, who had sought a recount, refused to participate in the audit after the commission declined to review voter registration lists and other physical voting records.

He has filed suit with Venezuela's supreme court challenging the results.

On Tuesday, Capriles also slammed the audit itself as a "farce."

"You don't really have to be an IT expert to know that when they compare the vote totals with the electronic tallies, the result is going to be the same," Capriles charged on his Internet channel Capriles.TV.

Obama base voices concern on Pacific trade pact

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Lawmakers from President Barack Obama's Democratic Party voiced alarm Tuesday over a proposed trans-Pacific trade pact, saying negotiations were too secretive and could lead to US job losses.

A letter signed by a majority of first-term Democrats in the House of Representatives said that talks on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which Obama has billed as a signature priority, have progressed in "extreme secrecy."

The lawmakers vowed to resist efforts to give Obama "fast-track" trade promotion authority -- which would let his team negotiate a deal, with Congress then voting up or down without the opportunity to make changes. "Congress needs to work together to get American trade policy back on track -- not give away its authority to do so," said the letter spearheaded by Representative Mark Pocan of Wisconsin. "Reducing our authority to ensure our trade agreements serve the public interest will undermine our efforts to create American jobs and to reform a misguided trade policy that has devastated our manufacturing base through the offshoring of American production and American jobs," the letter said.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership talks include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam, with Japan virtually certain to join negotiations this year.

Obama has billed the pact -- which would cover 40 percent of the world economy -- as a "21st-century" type of trade deal that would ensure labor and environmental standards while creating US jobs by opening up markets within the dynamic Asia-Pacific region.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership has also generated controversy in other nations including Japan, whose powerful farm lobby charges that foreign competition would destroy the traditionally protected sector.



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Snowden likely overstepped access at NSA: experts



Snowden

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities are looking into how a low-level IT contractor managed to get hold of top secret documents that are usually accessible to only a small number of insiders, experts say.

Edward Snowden's bombshell leaks about National Security Agency spying included an order from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA), which has kept its documents secret for more than three decades.

"It's extraordinarily closely held," said Robert Deitz, who served as general counsel for the National Security Agency and the CIA.

Fewer than 100 people likely would have permission to see such an order, Deitz, a professor of public policy at George Mason University, told AFP.

"Why is he gaining access to the crown jewels?" he said

of Snowden, who has no university degree or extensive intelligence training.

The wide range of information Snowden exposed, which covered separate programs, raised the possibility he may have exceeded his authorized access to get his hands on the secret files, former officials said.

"I think it's highly likely that he overstepped his bounds," said Cedric Leighton, a former deputy director of training at the NSA and retired Air Force colonel.

"And all it took was him helping some senior person with an IT issue, and he may have had access to possibly that person's password. Once that happens, then all bets are off," said Leighton.

The intelligence community faces a delicate balance between restricting information based on the "need to know" and the "need to share," but the Snowden case may cause the agencies to reconsider how secrets are managed, Deitz said.

The latest leak inevitably will bring a thorough review of internal cyber security at the spy agencies and of how employees, particularly contractors, are vetted and screened, Leighton said.

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Riot police swoop on G8 protesters in London



LONDON (AFP) - Riot police on Tuesday forced their way into two buildings in London occupied by anti-capitalists, and clashed with protesters demonstrating in the British capital ahead of next week's G8 summit in Northern Ireland.

London's Metropolitan Police said nearly 1,200 officers had been deployed and 32 protesters had been arrested.

More than a hundred riot officers surrounded a former police station in the Soho district thought to be an anti-capitalist squat, and after a tense standoff pushed their way inside to escort several people from the building.

Aerial television footage showed a protester being pinned down by officers on the roof, where several police abseiling teams had positioned themselves.

A banner reading "What if we smash the G8?" was hanging from a window.

London's Metropolitan Police said they had "a search warrant relating to intelligence that individuals at the address were in possession of weapons and were intent on causing criminal damage and engaging in violent disorder". Officers removed large pieces of wood and metal poles from the building.

In east London, police said they had raided a second building following reports of criminal damage. Three people were arrested.

The raids came as around 150 protesters paraded through central London, banging drums in a "Carnival Against Capitalism" organised by the group Stop G8.

Leaders of the world's richest economies including US and Russian presidents Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin are due to meet at the Lough Erne luxury golf resort in Northern Ireland on June 17-18.



BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazilian Munduruku natives rally in front of the Esplanade of Ministries in Brasilia yesterday. About 150 Mundurukus natives occupied Tuesday night the headquarters of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) in Brasilia to demand to be consulted on the construction of the controversial Belo Monte hydroelectric. Belo Monte, which is being built at a cost of \$13 billion, is expected to flood an area of 500 square km along the Xingu River, displacing 16,000 people, according to the government.

International News

1,000 Kurdish soldiers desert Iraq army

KIRKUK (AFP) - More than 1,000 Kurdish career soldiers in Iraq's army have deserted and want to be integrated into forces loyal to the autonomous Kurdistan region, a heavy blow to the country's stretched armed forces.

The move comes after the Kurdish troops disobeyed orders to take part in an operation ordered by the Shiite-led authorities against a mainly Sunni Arab town.

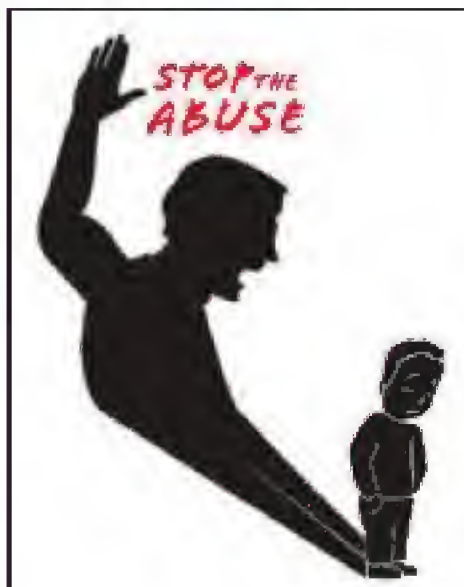
If their request is fulfilled, such a mass defection would be a major loss to Iraq's security forces as they grapple with a surge in violence that has sparked fears of renewed sectarian bloodshed.

Two officials said the 1,070 Kurdish members of the Iraqi army's 16th Brigade mutinied when gunmen took control of a northern town in April, and subsequently declined to attend disciplinary re-training.

The soldiers were no longer receiving salaries or rations from the Iraqi army, nor were they following any orders from federal forces, according to the mayor of the town where they are based.

The mass defection comes at a crucial time for Iraq's security forces, which are dealing with a massive spike in violence, months of protests in Sunni Arab provinces, and fears of spillover from the conflict in neighbouring Syria.

Last month, more than 1,000 people were killed in violence according to the United Nations, the highest toll since 2008, and attacks on Monday left 78 people dead.



Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

Entrees: Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea
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Violence flares as Turkey PM 'tolerance' for protests ends



ISTANBUL (AFP) - Riot police stormed an Istanbul protest square Tuesday, firing volleys of tear gas at firework-hurling demonstrators after Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned he had "no more tolerance" for the mass demos against his Islamic-rooted government.

Taksim Square turned into a battle scene as darkness fell, clouds of acrid smoke filling the square as police clashed with thousands of protesters chanting "Erdogan, resign!" and "Resistance!", in a fresh escalation of 12 days of deadly nationwide unrest.

Several small fires raged and AFP reporters saw at least a dozen injured.

Police returned to Taksim, the epicentre of the protests, in the early morning for the first time since pulling out more than a week ago. Throughout the day, they fought hours-

long battles with groups of demonstrators, some of whom hurled stones, fireworks and Molotov cocktails.

Police also brought in bulldozers to clear barricades erected by demonstrators.

In the capital Ankara, which has seen several nights of violence, crowds again took to the streets, angrily banging pots and pans.

The early morning assault on Taksim Square surprised protesters, many of whom were dozing in nearby Gezi Park, because it came just hours after Prime Minister Erdogan said he would meet with protest leaders on Wednesday, his first major concession since the trouble began.

The nationwide unrest first erupted after police cracked down heavily on May 31 on a campaign to save Gezi Park from redevelopment.

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Health & Living

France reports new suspected cases of MERS virus

PARIS (AFP) - French medical authorities on Tuesday reported two new suspected cases of infection with the SARS-like virus MERS which has killed more than 30 people worldwide, the bulk of them in Saudi Arabia.

The patients suspected of having contracted the virus are both men who have recently spent time in Saudi Arabia and they have been hospitalised in Tours, a town in the Loire region south of Paris.

France has had two confirmed cases of MERS to date, including one which led to a death in the northern town of Lille last month.

In its most recent update on the virus, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on June 7 that there had been 55

laboratory-confirmed cases of the virus, 31 of which had resulted in the affected individuals dying.

Previously known as novel coronavirus, the disease was last month renamed Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, or MERS-CoV.

The WHO believes 26 of the 31 people who have died contracted the virus in Saudi Arabia.

Like SARS, MERS appears to cause a lung infection, with patients suffering from a temperature, cough and breathing difficulty.

But it differs in that it also causes rapid kidney failure and the extremely high death rate has caused serious concern among health experts.

At least 23 Canadian deaths linked to contraceptive: report

OTTAWA (AFP) - At least 23 Canadian women died and hundreds more may have been harmed taking the world's two most commonly prescribed birth control pills, the country's public broadcaster said Tuesday.

Yaz and Yasmin oral contraceptives were suspected in the deaths by doctors and pharmacists who reported adverse drug reactions to Health Canada, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation said, citing documents obtained from the government agency.

Their manufacturer, German pharmaceutical giant Bayer, is the target of lawsuits in Canada, the United States and elsewhere by women who claim they were harmed by this new generation of contraception containing a synthetic hormone called drospirenone.

Some 600 women prescribed Yaz or Yasmin in Canada reportedly suffered adverse health reactions. Twenty-

three died, including a 14-year-old girl, mostly from blood clots, according to the Health Canada data.

Bayer, which has already paid out more than a billion

dollars in settlements in the United States, will appeal the certification of the first Canadian class action lawsuit over Yaz and Yasmin, according to CBC.

First double-leg transplant patient has limbs amputated

MADRID (AFP) - The world's first double-leg transplant patient has had both limbs amputated after an unrelated illness forced him to stop taking anti-rejection drugs, the Spanish hospital that carried out the operation said Tuesday.

The patient, who contracted an unrelated illness, had the two limbs amputated about a year and a half after the milestone transplant, it said.

He had to stop taking immunosuppressant drugs required to prevent his body rejecting the transplant because the medicine was complicating the treatment of the illness, the hospital said.

"In these cases the protocol is that, if the transplanted organ is not a vital organ, it should be removed from the patient so as to allow treatment of the illness that is more serious and urgent."

The patient had not given permission for the release of information about his current treatment, the hospital added.

Renowned surgeon Pedro Cavañas led the team that carried out the original 10-hour transplant operation, which was completed on July 10, 2011.

The double leg surgery was touted as a world first.

More than 50 personnel were involved including surgeons, nurses, anaesthetists and transplant coordinators.

Surgeons had to connect nerves, blood vessels, muscles, tendons and bone structure.

But the patient, a man in his 20s who has not been identified, was obliged to take immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of his life.

The man had had both legs amputated above the knee after a traffic accident.

UN AIDS envoy criticises Russian prosecution of addicts

VILNIUS (AFP) - The UN envoy for AIDS in Eastern Europe on Tuesday denounced the region, and Russia in particular, for its increasingly harsh criminal prosecution of drug addicts, at a conference to curb the spread of HIV.

Michel Kazatchkine, the UN's special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, spoke to AFP on the sidelines of the International Harm Reduction Conference in Vilnius, which is backed by the Elton John AIDS Foundation and is spotlighting health among intravenous drug users.

The group is one of the highest-risk populations for the AIDS virus, especially in

central and eastern Europe and central Asia.

Kazatchkine said opiate substitution therapy is illegal in Russia and needle exchange programmes are almost nonexistent.

The former doctor denounced the justice system's harshness, fuelled by "social, cultural, religious and now economic factors".

According to the World Health Organisation's Martin Donoghoe, Europe's HIV epidemic is being fuelled by stigma.

"It is a vicious circle: social marginalisation increases the risk of being affected by HIV, and HIV exacerbates social marginalisation, adding another layer of stigma," he

said at the opening of the four-day event on Sunday.

The conference is taking place in the Lithuanian capital to focus on central and eastern Europe and central Asia, an HIV hotspot with more than 3.7 million injecting drug users, almost a quarter of the worldwide tally.

According to the UN agency UNAIDS, eastern and central Europe has the fastest-growing HIV epidemic of any region in the world, with injecting drug use accounting for around three-quarters of new cases.

In Russia, some 1.5 million people are living with HIV compared to some 100,000 a decade ago.



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Sci-Tech

Broad coalition protests US surveillance program

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A coalition of Internet and civil liberties groups launched a campaign Tuesday protesting the huge US online surveillance program revealed in the past week.

Joining the effort were the Mozilla Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, Greenpeace USA, the World Wide Web Foundation and more than 80 other organizations or companies.

The coalition launched a website, StopWatching.us, and called on Congress to launch a full probe and urging more disclosure from US officials about the National Security Agency's vast program Internet surveillance program.

An online petition was also launched on the website.

"We don't want an Internet where everything we do is secretly logged and tracked by government," said Alex Fowler, head of privacy and public policy for Mozilla, which produces the Firefox browser.

Randy Reitman of the Electronic Frontier Foundation said the groups want legal reforms to halt this type of surveillance and a "full investigative congressional committee" on the matter.

The organizations also called for reform of Section 215 of the Patriot Act, a measure passed after the September 11 attacks, which authorize secret court orders used for some surveillance, and of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) which has also been used.

A letter sent to members of Congress expressed concern about the PRISM program revealed to be operated by the secretive National Security Agency and FBI.

Signatories included a diverse group including the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, Center for Democracy and Technology, Competitive Enterprise Institute and Internet companies reddit and DuckDuckGo.

"Deepsea Challenger"



WASHINGTON (AFP) - : Academy Award winning director and ocean explorer James Cameron speaks in front of the one-person submarine he helped to develop, "Deepsea Challenger", as it is displayed in front of the US Capitol in Washington, DC, June 11, 2013. The sub, which he used to explore the Mariana Trench and is the only human-occupied vehicle currently capable of reaching the deepest parts of the ocean, is on a cross-country journey to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, where it has been donated.

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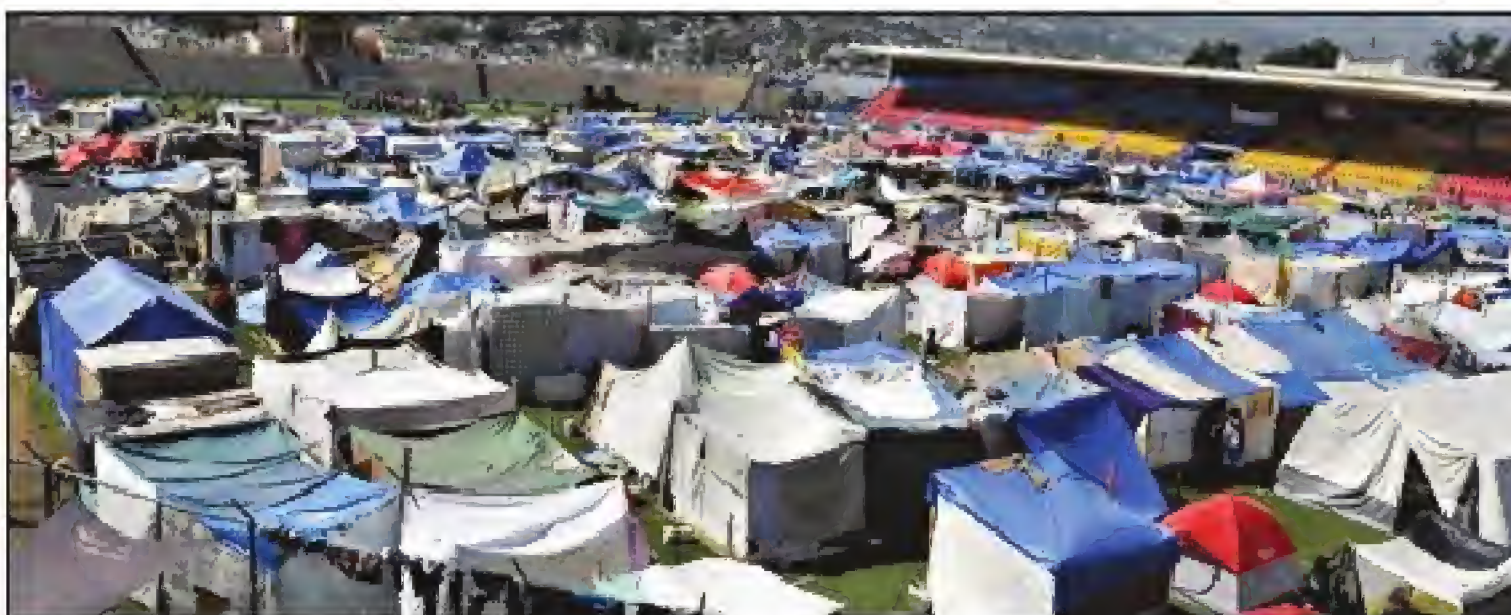
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Haiti faces disaster amid poor harvest, hurricanes: UN



GENEVA (AFP) - Poverty-stricken Haiti faces a new crisis amid fears of a poor harvest as hurricane season looms in the Caribbean nation, the World Food Programme warned Tuesday.

Launching an appeal for \$17.2 million (13 million euros), Elisabeth Byrs, spokeswoman for the UN food agency, said 1.5 million people in Haiti currently relied on food

aid to survive.

A further 6.7 million people in the nation of 10.2 million struggle to feed themselves on a daily basis, she said.

"This is a humanitarian disaster that we need to stop in its tracks," Byrs told reporters.

"The situation remains very worrying, and dramatic," she added.

She said the WFP needed the emergency funding to preposi-

tion food aid before the impact of the poor June-July harvest is deepened by what is expected to be a tough hurricane season.

Like other nations in the region, Haiti is traditionally on hurricane alert from June until November.

In addition to regularly having to pick up the pieces after hurricanes, Haiti is still recovering from the January 2010 earthquake that killed 250,000.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Mall special
- Not even
- Mao —-tung
- Fuel
- Pool sticks
- Class
- Rick's love in "Casablanca"
- Mild cussword
- Stretch the truth
- This many is company
- Helps a criminal
- Share an opinion
- "Oz" dog
- Embroidery thread
- Restless
- Actor Holt
- Vague schedule info (abbr.)
- Scratch —
- "Scat!"
- Abdul or Deen
- Heights (abbr.)
- Bancroft and Baxter
- Tot
- To's pal
- Finish a home ec project
- "Jane —" (Brontë)
- Cools
- Time period
- Actual
- Pharaoh's river

DOWN

- Physics, e.g. (abbr.)
- Internet service (abbr.)
- Vegas intro
- Makes happy
- Eight, to Eduardo
- date (deadline)
- 12th mo.
- Ceramic piece
- Long cut
- Makes last
- Emulate Brinker
- Jazzman
- Triumphed
- Pointy tool
- Receipts
- Feathery neckwear
- Behind, on a boat
- Fluent
- European capital
- Toothpaste holders
- "Hooked — Feeling" (2 wds.)
- Reeled
- Cheney's alma mater
- Blasting letters
- Marx's "— Kapital"
- Guy's companion
- More ancient
- Montgomery
- Golfer's goal
- Apply oil to as a sacred rite
- Gnaw
- Brave person
- "— Ordinary Man" (2 wds.)
- Cut, as a tree
- Favorable vote
- Uncooked
- Spy gp.
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- Watch

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Sudoku

SOLUTION

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 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

CBOE fined \$6 mn for weak trading oversight

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Chicago Board Options Exchange, the biggest US options trading platform, agreed to pay a \$6 million fine to settle charges it failed in its regulatory oversight, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced yesterday.

CBOE fell short of the requirements to prevent abusive short-selling, the SEC said. As such, the exchange failed to perform a core function of a self-regulatory organization.

"The proper regulation of the markets relies on SROs to aggressively police their member firms and enforce their rules as well as the securities laws," said Andrew Ceresneh, co-director of the SEC's division of enforcement.

"When SROs fail to regulate responsibly the conduct of their member firms as CBOE did here, we will not hesitate to bring an enforcement action."

The CBOE case is the first levied against an exchange for

violations related to regulatory oversight, the SEC said.

Among the regulatory and compliance failures, CBOE failed to enforce a short-selling rule with a client because the company had not adequately train surveillance staff or ensure that investigators had read the rules, the SEC said.

CBOE then took "mis-guided and unprecedented" steps of assisting that same client firm when it became the subject of an SEC investigation, the SEC said.

CBOE, in a separate statement, said the exchange had implemented or was in the process of implementing all remedies identified by the SEC.

"This settlement marks a significant step in putting the SEC matter behind us, but our commitment to maintaining the very highest standards in regulation and compliance will be carried forward throughout the organization," it said.

Spain's Catalonia demands austerity reprieve

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's heavily indebted region of Catalonia, which is facing a resurgent separatist movement, demanded yesterday that the central government lift its budget deficit target for this year to protect social services.

Madrid wants the country's 17 regions, which are responsible for providing healthcare and education services, to lower their budget deficit to 1.2 percent of gross domestic

product this year from an average of 1.7 percent last year.

The reduction is crucial to Spain's campaign to lower the nation's overall public deficit and meet targets agreed with Brussels.

But Catalonia has yet to present a 2013 budget and Catalan president Artur Mas said yesterday his government would not be able to table one unless Madrid raises the deficit limit.

Nicaragua and China agree to build canal between Pacific and Caribbean

MANAGUA -- Nicaragua may, at last, see its dream of a cross-country canal come true. President Daniel Ortega presented late yesterday a draft law to the National Assembly that will give a Hong Kong company the contract for the construction and management of the future canal for 50 years. The Assembly, which is largely controlled by Ortega's Sandinista Front, approved the project a day later, over objections from the opposition.

Although a route to the future canal is yet to be established, analysts point that it would go through the waters of Lake Nicaragua.

The project, which will be controlled by the newly formed HK Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Co. Ltd., includes an inter-oceanic canal, an oil pipeline, a "dry canal" freight railroad, two deep-water ports, two airports, and a series of free-trade zones.

It is believed the project would take about 11 years to complete it, and that it will create about 40,000 construction jobs. The project will come with an investment of \$40 billion, which will be distributed in \$10 million annual payments from the Chinese company to Nicaragua during the first decade.



Dusk view of the Panama Canal Authority's \$5.2-billion expansion of the historic Panama Canal. The Panama Canal is now being widened by a coalition of business firms. The expansion is expected to be done by 2014. According to the Panama Canal Authority, more than 13,000 ships use the channel annually, gaining access to more than 144 sea routes. The United States and China are the two most important users of the canal, according to the authority's 2012 annual report.

Chevron latest to sell oil interests in Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) - US-based Chevron announced yesterday it was selling its interest in two Nigerian oil blocks, becoming the latest multi-national to part with assets in Africa's biggest crude producer.

The move will see Chevron sell its 40-percent stakes in oil mining leases 83 and 85 located in shallow water in the country's southern Niger Delta region.

Chevron declined to provide information on reserves. Local media reported that the blocks contain reserves of some 250

million barrels of oil. Chevron has been Nigeria's third-biggest oil producer, after Shell and Exxon, with daily output at 238,000 barrels of crude per day in 2012. It will continue to have a major presence in Nigeria.

The move marks the latest sale of Nigerian assets by a multi-national company and comes amid uncertainty in the country's oil industry, with a sweeping overhaul of regulations, royalties and taxes delayed for years and still stuck in parliament.

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 OWNER KITS
 CHET ENCORE
 TOT NEIGH EDT
 ASSERT SCAR
 POOH MIAMI
 GROANS BARN
 WEAR IRAS TRY
 ELKS OINK EYE
 NYSE NODS DES

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|--|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
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| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.72 | 1.74 | 1.76 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.70 | 2.75 | 2.81 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 191.96 | 192.68 | 193.48 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 234.26 | 236.40 | 238.77 |
| Sweden | SEK | 26.05 | 26.77 | 27.57 |
| Denmark | DKK | 30.74 | 31.46 | 32.26 |
| Norway | NOK | 29.79 | 30.51 | 31.31 |
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SETAR proud to be the official sponsor of successful 'Vozilandia 2013'



SETAR N.V. Corporate Communications Manager Suzy Maduro presenting Shannon Bueno her trophy

-- After an absence of more than 8 years, Vozilandia is back.

The organization can look back to a successful 'Vozilandia 2013', Aruba's most popular children's song festival with original songs every year in Papiamentu.

More than 1,000 spectators, most of them students, parents and teachers of the different participating schools participated enjoyed a very entertaining evening.

On the final night the young singers competed with much gusto, presenting a delighted show to everyone present.



winner Category A: Damon Illes with 'Dream of a Mouse'



Winners are:

Category A: Damon Illes - Scol Primario Kudawecha with the song "Soño di un Raton" - Dream of a Mouse. Composer is J. "Biggie Boy" Thiel and arrangement by Robert Thiel.

Category B: Shannon Bueno - Reina Beatriz School with the song "Stima

y Yuda Otro" - Love and Help Each Other. Composer is Jean Bueno Hooft and arrangement by Luis Bueno.

SETAR presented both winners with a nice tablet.

Photos show : scenes of the entertaining event

by Rosalie Klein



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Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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Bollywood star's boyfriend remanded over suicide



file photo ; Jiah Khan

MUMBAI (AFP) - A court in India remanded the boyfriend of the late Bollywood actress Jiah Khan in custody Tuesday over accusations that his behaviour had helped drive her to commit suicide.

Suraj Pancholi, a 22-year-old aspiring actor, was brought before a court in Mumbai after police arrested him on Monday for "abetment to commit suicide", a week after his girlfriend's body was discovered at her home.

Additional Police Commissioner Vishwas Nangre-Patil told AFP that the charge was based on the contents of a suicide note found at Khan's Mumbai and from a statement by her mother.

Pancholi was remanded in custody by the court until June 13. Khan, who made her debut starring opposite acting legend Amitabh Bachchan, was found dead in an apparent suicide on June 3.

The 25-year-old's parents found a suicide note in her wallet which reports said contained details of her troubled relationship with Pancholi.

Khan, born in New York before moving to London and then Mumbai, made her Bollywood debut in 2007 with the controversial film "Nishabd"

(No words), playing a teenager in love with her best friend's much older father, played by Bachchan.

The movie won attention because of its provocative storyline and Khan was praised for her bold acting.

Khan, who changed her name from Nafisa Khan, went on to star alongside actor Aamir Khan in "Ghajini", a box-office hit.

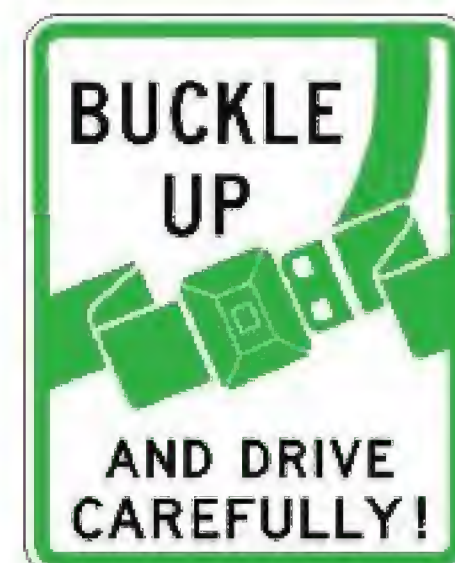
India's film industry reacted with shock and sadness to her death, with superstar Aamir Khan saying he was "deeply pained".

Pancholi has been taking acting lessons and was set to make his own film debut, having signed to feature in the Salman Khan movie "Hero". He has previously worked as an assistant director.

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold

Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further en-

hance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom,

Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted

Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm,

Tel: 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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NHL: Bruins set to face Blackhawks in Stanley Cup Final



CHICAGO (AFP) - In the first National Hockey League Final between "Original Six" clubs since 1979, the Chicago Blackhawks and Boston Bruins will battle for the Stanley Cup starting on Wednesday in Chicago.

An NHL season that did not begin until mid-January thanks to a money dispute between club owners, and playoffs that prompted a lockout, will end two weeks later than usual in a classic showdown between two of the past three champions.

The Bruins bring back 17 players from the squad that won the Cup in 2011, including captain Zdeno Chara, a Slovakian defenseman whose size makes him difficult for opposing forward to cope with when attack the Boston net.

"We know there's still a long ways to go," Chara said. "But we gave ourselves a chance."

Chara's toughest challenge might be stopping one of his countrymen, Chicago winger Marian Hossa, who will appear

in his fourth Stanley Cup final.

Boston ousted the Pittsburgh Penguins in the Eastern Conference final while the Blackhawks, who return only nine players from their 2010 Cup winners, defeated 2012 NHL champion Los Angeles in the Western Conference final.

Chicago opened the season with 21 wins and three overtime losses, producing points in a record 24 games to start a season. They finished with the best mark in the NHL and hope to duplicate their championship run.

"We're feeling pretty good. We're going back in the Stanley Cup Final," Jonathan Toews said. "We're pretty excited about that."

They will be tested by "Cool Hand Tuke", the nickname given Finnish goaltender Tuukka Rask of the Bruins, who blanked the Penguins twice in four games after Pittsburgh, which led the league in regular-season scoring, had

produced goals in 96 games in a row.

Rask totaled 134 saves in four games against the Penguins with a 98.5 percent save ratio and a 1.75 goals-against average.

Boston barely escaped the first round of the playoffs, trailing Toronto by three goals in the last half of the final period of the seventh game of their series before rallying to win in over-time, an unprecedented feat from such a deficit with so little time remaining.

"You're not depending on one or two guys and everybody waiting for them to score," said 41-year-old Bruins winger Jaromir Jagr, a Czech star who seeks a third Stanley Cup after helping Pittsburgh claim the crown in 1991 and 1992.

"Here everybody can score any time. Coach tries to roll four lines no matter what the situation is. It's a huge advantage."



MEXICO:

--Mexico booked their place at the FIFA Confederations Cup Brazil 2013 thanks to their 4-2 defeat of arch-rivals USA in a pulsating CONCACAF Gold Cup 2011 final.

The current crop of expectations are high for the De la Torre era, with the fanatical Azteca fans sure to expect nothing but the best from the coach. Those in the know in Mexico have said that the current national team is the most talented in history, a suspicion backed up by the side's recent run to their sixth CONCACAF Gold Cup title. Coming back from a 2-0 deficit to beat USA 4-2 in the final in Southern California is surely an apt example of just how dangerous this Mexico side can be.

De la Torre relies on a blend of big-name veterans such as Rafael Marquez, Carlos Salcido and Ricardo Osorio, as well as a host of members of Mexico's youthful "Golden Generation". The latter crop can now expect an ever-greater burden of responsibility on their shoulders, given that many ply their trade in Europe's biggest leagues and boast FIFA World Cup experience from South Africa 2010.

SPORTS

2014 World Cup qualifications:

PARIS (AFP) - Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored both goals as Sweden beat the Faroe Islands 2-0 to earn three crucial points in their quest to qualify for the 2014 World Cup on Tuesday, but their Scandinavian neighbours Denmark suffered a crushing 4-0 home defeat to Armenia.

Paris Saint-Germain striker Ibrahimovic stabbed home the opener from close range 10 minutes before the interval at the Friends Arena in the Stockholm suburb of Solna, and then added a penalty eight minutes from time.

Sweden were ultimately comfortable winners despite the sending-off of Andreas Granqvist towards the end, and Erik Hamren's side climb back into third place in qualifying Group C.

With 11 points from six games, the Swedes are five points behind leaders Germany but level on points with second-placed Austria and the Republic of Ireland in fourth.

Their next game is away to Ireland in September.

Meanwhile, Denmark's chances of qualifying for a third consecutive major tournament finals received a hammer blow as they went down 4-0 to Armenia in Copenhagen.

The forward Yura Movsisyan, who once had a spell in the Danish league but now plays for Spartak Moscow, scored twice for the former Soviet republic with Aris Ozbiliz and Shakhtar Donetsk star Henrikh Mkhitaryan also on target.

The scoreline equalled Armenia's biggest ever victory, while for Denmark it was a heaviest defeat in a competitive match since going down 5-1 to Spain at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Their chances of reaching the 2014 finals now appear slim. With four games remaining in Group B, Morten Olsen's team are eight points behind leaders Italy and four adrift of Bulgaria in second.

Armenia, meanwhile, move level on points with the Danes with the two teams due to meet again in September.

Elsewhere, in Group I, Finland's chances of finishing second received a blow as they only managed a 1-1 draw in Belarus, a result that leaves the Finns four points behind France.



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Athletics: 'My eyes are on the prize', warns Bolt

OSLO (AFP) - Usain Bolt on Tuesday fired out a broadside at potential rivals at August's World Athletics Championships, saying that despite indifferent early season form his "eyes were on the prize".

The Jamaican has six Olympic gold medals to his name, and is reigning double world 200m champion and also world record holder in both the 100m and 200m.

But he sustained a blip in his exemplary career when he suffered a surprise defeat to American 2004 Olympic champion Justin Gatlin over 100m at the Rome leg of the 14-meet Diamond League circuit last week.

Bolt was quick to laugh off critics, saying that although a hamstring teak had set him

back somewhat, he was not concerned about going to the worlds having suffered a loss, only his fourth in competition since 2008.

"This season started off pretty good, but I picked up a slight hamstring problem which was a slight setback for me," he said ahead of Oslo's Bislett Games on Thursday.

"It's all about training to determine if I can get back to where I need to be to try to get back breaking records."

Bolt added: "It's too early in the season to say what will be needed.

"Tyson (Gay)'s already there, Gatlin's running good but got beat by (Christophe) Lemaitre, and (Yohan) Blake's coming back from injury.

Bolt, who dominated both the Beijing and London Olympics but lost his world 100m crown in Daegu in 2011 to compatriot Blake after a false start, said he was keen to notch up some more competitive racing after a prolonged period of training.

"I've trained very well. My legs felt great so I'm really happy," he said. "All I need right now is some races under my belt before the national trials."

NBA: Grizzlies dump Hollins as coach despite playoff run



MEMPHIS (AFP) - Lionel Hollins will not be offered a new contract to coach the Memphis Grizzlies, the team announced on Monday, despite his guiding them to the best playoff run in their 18-year history.

The Grizzlies reached the Western Conference finals for the first time this season, winning a club-record 56 regular-season games and beating the Los Angeles Clippers and

Oklahoma City before losing to the San Antonio Spurs.

Hollins, 59, is under contract as the team's coach until June 30 but will not be offered a renewal deal after the Spurs swept Memphis out of the playoffs.

Hollins served as an interim coach of the Grizzlies in the 1999-2000 season when they were based in Vancouver and coached the last four games in the 2004-05 season after Hubie Brown resigned as coach.

In January of 2009, the Grizzlies hired Hollins as their coach and he went 195-155 over four seasons, reaching the playoffs each of the past three campaigns.

The Grizzlies are looking at George Karl, this season's NBA Coach of the Year who was fired last week by the Denver Nuggets, according to the Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper.

Hollins is expected to attract interest from several NBA



VS.



NBA FINALS

Game 1: SAS 92, MIA 88 (Spurs lead 1-0)

Game 2: MIA 103, SAS 84 (Series tied 1-1)

Game 4: Jun 13 - 9 pm EDT @SAS

Game 5: Jun 16 - 8 pm EDT @SAS

Game 6: Jun 18 - 9 - pm EDT @MIA

Game 7: Jun 20 - 9 pm EDT @MIA

(Series best-of-seven)

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clubs, including Denver, the Clippers and the Brooklyn Nets.

Meanwhile in Detroit, Maurice Cheeks, a former point guard who helped the Philadelphia 76ers win an NBA title in 1983, was named coach of the NBA's Detroit Pistons on Monday.

Cheeks, who spent the past four seasons as an assistant coach for the Oklahoma City

Thunder, has previously served as a coach in Philadelphia and Portland.

The 56-year-old Cheeks, who signed a multi-year deal with the Pistons, compiled a 284-286 record from 2001-2005 with Portland and 2005-2009 with Philadelphia, but only made the playoffs three times in eight seasons and never made it past the first round.



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CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

Tebow set to join Patriots

FOXBORO (AFP) - New England coach Bill Belichick kept it brief Tuesday when discussing the signing of quarterback Tim Tebow as a potential backup for the Patriots' superstar signal-caller Tom Brady.

"Anything we do is what we feel is in the best interest of the team," Belichick said, a day after ESPN reported that Tebow signed a two-year contract that includes no guaranteed money.

"Tim is a talented player that's smart and works hard, so we'll see how it goes," Belichick said.

Tebow has struggled in the NFL after making a big impression in his second season in 2011, when he took over as Denver's starting passer in the fourth week and sparked the Broncos to a surprise division crown and a first-round playoff upset of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Despite his celebrity, in part for his evangelical views and a kneeling move that became known as "Tebowing", he was traded to the New York Jets for two draft picks.

In 12 games with the Jets last



season, Tebow was used in a variety of roles. The 25-year-old threw just eight passes and completed only six for 39 yards while running 32 times for 102 yards. He was released by the Jets six weeks ago.

Belichick declined to discuss how the Patriots might use Tebow.

"We're going to do what we think is best for this football team, so, I don't know, we'll see," Belichick said. "We'll see, I don't know."

The move reunites Tebow with the coach who selected him in the first round of the

2010 NFL Draft. Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, who was then coach of the Broncos.

Tebow was on the practice field Tuesday working with the Patriots' quarterbacks.

"I'm very thankful," Tebow said of his arrival in New England. "It's such an honour to be a Patriot and play for Coach Belichick and Coach McDaniels, and learn under Tom (Brady) and be a part of this great franchise and very successful franchise. I found out first-hand -- lost to them several times."

Golf: Garcia leaves locker room note for Woods

ARDMORE (AFP) - The Tiger Woods/Sergio Garcia "fried chicken" spat rumbled on at the US Open on Tuesday after the two men failed to have a clear-the-air talk over comments the Spaniard made last month.

The two old rivals did shake hands on the practice range at Merion Golf Club on Monday between the downpours that have soaked the layout outside of Philadelphia.

But both men said they had not had the time to have a meaningful discussion and Garcia was unable to make the face-to-face apology he had pledged to make over the controversial comments he uttered about Woods three weeks ago.

In the end, the Spaniard left a note in Woods' locker, purportedly saying he was wrong to have said what he said.

"Obviously we saw each

other yesterday on the range," Garcia said.

"I was hoping to meet him after the round, but he was gone after the round. The weather obviously didn't help.

"And this morning I was here early. I didn't see him around. Obviously he got here later on. But I did leave him a note. A handwritten note. And hopefully he can take a look at it.

"I understand that it's difficult to meet up and stuff. So hopefully we'll be able to do it. If not, at least he has read the note and he's happy with that."

Asked by journalists at his tournament news conference to comment on what he had written in the note, Garcia declined.

"I mean the note is for him, so if he wants to show you, then he can," Garcia said. "I don't have any problems with that. But I am not going to be the one showing you. Sorry."



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